

REMARKS

A. Introduction

Claims 1-5 are presented for examination.

Claims 2-5 were objected to.

Claim 1 was rejected.

Claim 1 has been amended.

Claims 6-10 have been added with this response.

B. Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kanehisa, et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,435,622 B1. The Examiner has suggested that Kanehisa discloses a quick release, detachable wheel hub assembly having all the elements as claimed in Claim 1, including a detachable axle (32) attachable to a frame (15), an interior hub (24) rotatably mounted on the axle, an exterior hub (50) detachably interlockable with the interior hub and rotatable therewith, the wheel hub being mountable on the exterior hub for rotation therewith; and a pin (30) insertable and lockable in the exterior hub, the interior hub, and the axle, for holding the hub assembly together, the pin also being quickly releasable to disassemble the hub assembly.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Kanehisa discloses an interior hub (24). To the contrary, the interior hub (24), identified by the Examiner, is instead a freewheel having multiple internal ball bearings and a one-way clutch designed for multiple gears and gear shifting for the propulsion of a bicycle. The interior hub in the present invention has a much simpler design and is easier to manufacture. It does not have a one-way clutch and is not designed to support gears. For these reasons, Claim 1 is patentably

distinguishable from the Kanehisa patent.

The Applicant also respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion that Kanehisa discloses a pin (30) being quickly releasable to disassemble the hub assembly. Although Kanehisa describes its pin as "quick release," it is in truth not quickly releasable. The pin in Kanehisa is threaded at one end for threadably connecting to the detachable axle. In order to be removed for disassembly of the hub, the pin (30) must be unscrewed, thus preventing the quick release and removal of the pin. In addition, this screwing and unscrewing process may be difficult for wheelchair users who have hand or arm limitations and may not be physically able to turn the mechanism. In contrast, the pin in the present invention can be easily and quickly released by simply pushing a button or flipping a lever and removing the pin. This distinguishing characteristic of the pin in the present invention was pointed out to the Examiner in the Applicant's response to the Office Action of April 22, 2004. The Examiner, in his rejection of Claim 1 in the present office action, did not address this distinguishing characteristic. It is Applicant's position that for this reason alone, Claim 1 is patentably distinguishable from Kanehisa.

Although the Applicant does not believe it is necessary for allowance of Claim 1, the Applicant has made certain amendments to Claim 1 which further distinguish it from the Kanehisa reference. A new limitation has been added to line 8 of Claim 1. The pin is now described as having a retractable member locking said pin within said exterior hub, said interior hub, and said detachable axle. Although the pin disclosed in Kanehisa has a retractable member, it does not operate to lock the pin within the hub assembly. Instead, the retractable member in Kanehisa is insertable into a groove on a threaded spacer and operates to turn the spacer with the groove. Thus, with the present amendment to Claim 1, it is now patentably distinguished from

the Kanehisa reference.

C. Objections of Claims 2-5

The Examiner objected to Claims 2-5 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Since Claim 1 is now patentably distinguished from Kanehisa, Claims 2-5 are no longer objectionable on this basis.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made to Claim 1 and the remarks following, it is submitted that Claims 1-5 are in a condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and the objections to Claim 2-5 are hereby requested.

If impediments to the allowance of Claims 1-5 remain of Claims 1-5 or new Claims 6-10 remain, and a telephone conference between the undersigned and the Examiner would help remove such impediments in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference is respectfully requested.

Please charge the fee(s) for additional claims, if any, and a three-month extension of time to our firm's Deposit Account No. 500808.

Respectfully submitted,

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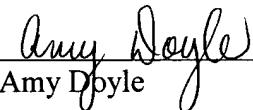
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Amy Doyle